

Opening Statement of Honorable Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Subcommittee on Health
Markup of H.R.767, H.R.880, H.R.931, and H.R.2422
June 29, 2017

(As prepared for delivery)

The Subcommittee will come to order.

The Chairman will recognize himself for an opening statement.

Since this will be the last time that the Subcommittee will meet before Independence Day, I would like to take a moment to recognize those who put their lives on the line to serve their communities. These individuals are truly national heroes. Today's markup focuses on four important pieces of legislation that will support the folks who work to improve our communities every day, and I am encouraged by the bipartisan fashion that the Subcommittee has worked in to craft these policies.

To kick things off, we will first examine the "Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond (SOAR) to Health and Wellness Act of 2017". This bill, introduced by Reps. Cohen, Caredenas, and Kinzinger, will build on a pilot program underway at the Department of Health and Human Services that has enhanced the capacity of health care providers and communities to identify victims and survivors of human trafficking. Empowering every day neighbors on how to identify these victims will help strengthen our communities.

Second, we will take a look at the "Military Injury Surgical Systems Integrated Operationally Nationwide to Achieve ZERO Preventable Deaths Act", also known as the "MISSION ZERO Act". This bill that I introduced alongside Reps. Green, Hudson, and Castor, will strengthen our nation's trauma care system by integrating military teams and providers into the civilian trauma system, thus allowing for the lessons we have learned from war to translate into improved successes in our local trauma centers. These teams and providers can then, in turn, gain additional experiences and remain ready in the event that the nation goes to war again.

Next, we will examine H.R. 931, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2017. This bill, introduced by Reps. Collins and Pascrell, will authorize funding for the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to create a national registry for the collection of data pertaining to cancer incidence among firefighters. Firefighters play an integral role in keeping our families and communities safe, and this bill will help us better understand these cancers so that we can take care of these men and women.

Finally, we will examine the Dental Health Act of 2017, authored by Representative Kelly. This bill would take several steps to support and improve dental health for some of our most vulnerable populations, including children and the elderly. As a provider who spent much of his three decades in practice caring for vulnerable populations, I have the utmost respect for other providers who go out of their way to help those who cannot always help themselves.

I would like to thank each member of the Subcommittee for their work on these bills. They are important, incremental steps that we can and should take to support our communities.